

Application No.10/681,843
Am'ndt Dated: 05 January, 2006
Office Action Mailed: October 19, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5, 9-11, 14-16, 22-41 are pending in this application. Claims 17 and 18 have now been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer; claims 6-8, 12, 13, 19-21 have previously been cancelled; new claims 39-41 have been added for consideration; claims 4,5,9-11,14-16,22-25 and 32-38 have been hel withdrawn from consideration.

Election/Restriction

It is noted the election requirement has been made final.

Specification

The Abstract has been amended and a clean copy Abstract accompanies this response. A revision of the originally filed Abstract was presented in the Preliminary Amendment filed October 8, 2003 but it appears a clean copy of the revised Abstract may not have been filed; if so, the oversight is regretted. The amendments shown in the present Response are based on the originally filed Abstract to avoid confusion.

The amended title proposed by the Examiner is acceptable.

The paragraph previously inserted on page 2 has been amended to update the in formation concerning the parent application.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 29-31 is noted with appreciation, and the allowability of claim 3 if amended to include all the limitations of claims 1 and 2 also is appreciated. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 3 and thus should be in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 26 and 28 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as allegedly anticipated by US Patent 5,663,102 (Frank) and claim 27 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as allegedly unpatentable over

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Frank. The rejections are traversed but have been rendered moot in view of amendments to claim 1 to place it and dependent claims 26-28 in condition for allowance.

New Claims

New claims 39-41 have been added and all are considered to read on the elected species. Claim 39 is based on claim 15 and incorporates all the features of allowable claim 1, with some differences in recitation of the constituent features that should not affect allowability of the claim together with its dependent claim 40. Claim 41 is based on claim 32 and incorporates all the features of allowable claim 1, again with some differences in recitation of the constituent features that should not affect allowability of the claim.

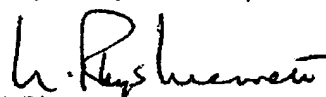
Consequent on placing claim 1 in condition for allowance, consideration as provided by 37 CFR 1.141 of the currently withdrawn claims is respectfully requested. If claim 32 is not considered to be allowable, consideration of claims 33-39 amended to be dependent from claim 41 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

It is believed a complete response has been made to all issues raised in the outstanding Office Action and it is believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. If there are any questions discussion of which would expedite further prosecution of the application, a telephone call to the undersigned (425) 402-4638 would be appreciated.

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Respectfully submitted,



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